(c) As on 30th September, 1993 there were 11190 Post Offices in Madhya Pradesh and each Post Office serves an average population of 5910.

(d) During the 8th Five Year Plan, Post Offices will be opened at places where there is justification according to norms and subject to availability of funds and allocation of target by the Planning Commission.

STATEMENT

Criteria/Norms fixed for opening of new Branch Post Offices in Rural Areas including Tribal Areas

(1) Population :

(a) In Normal Areas.—3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO villages).

(b) In the Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas.—500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

(2) Distance :

(a) In Normal Areas.—The minimum distance from the nearest existing Post Office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas.—The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation if warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

(3) Anticipated Income :

(a) In Normal Areas.—The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33-1/3 per cent of cost.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas.—The minimum anticipated income will be 15 per cent of the cost.

(4) The norms for opening new Departmental Sub Post Offices :

(a) The minimum of work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office should be five hours per day.

(b) The permissible annual loss should be not more than Rs. 2400 in normal rural areas and Rs. 4800 in Tribal and Hilly areas. However, in Urban Areas, the Post Office should be initially self supporting and at the time of the first annual review it should show 5 per cent profit to be eligible for further retention.

(c) The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other urban areas. No two delivery offices however, should be closer than 5 Kms. from each other. Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10 per cent of the cases.

(d) A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

TRANSMISSION OF TELEGRAMS IN TAMIL

2485. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the languages in which telegrams are transmitted ; and

(b) what are the steps taken to introduce transmission of telegrams in Tamil language ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Transmission of telegrams is permitted in all languages. However, the script should be Roman or Devnagari.

(b) Introduction of telegrams in Tamil Script has been approved and will be introduced on experimental basis.

PROPOSAL FOR INSTALLATION OF REMOTE SWITCHING UNITS

2486. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the C-DOT has developed a remote switching unit ;

(b) if so, what is the capacity of the unit ;

(c) whether Government propose to instal RSUs in all the major cities ; and

(d) how long it will take to manufacture the RSUs on commercial basis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : Yes Sir.

(b) RSU has a maximum capacity of 1600 lines.

(c) There is no proposal to install RSUs in all major cities. RSUs will be installed on local needs of configuration of equipment which vary from place to place.

(d) the Vendors can take up commercial production only after technology has been transferred by C-DOT after obtaining required approval.

REPORT OF ATHREYA COMMITTEE

2487. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the Report of Athreya Committee set up for the reorganisation of the Telecom System ; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to implement the report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The Athreya Committee in its report has recommended that the Department of Telecommunications/field organisations should be restructured into 6 corporations namely India Telecom Operating Corporation as Holding Company, 4 Zonal Telecom Operating Corporations and one long distance connector corporation.

(b) The recommendations of the Athreya Committee are under active consideration of the Government.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में डाक-घर भवन का निर्माण

2488. श्री महेश्वर सिंह : क्या संचार मंत्री 14 जुलाई 1992 को राज्य सभा में तारांकित प्रश्न 84 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) हिमाचल प्रदेश के रिकांगपियो जिला किनौर में प्रधान डाक-घर के भवन के निर्माण की अद्यतन स्थिति क्या है ;

(ख) क्या कुल्लू हिमाचल प्रदेश में डाक-घर भवन के निर्माण की मंजूरी दी गई है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो कब और यदि नहीं तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और निर्माण कार्य कब तक प्रारम्भ होने की संभावना है ?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम)

(क) 40 प्रतिशत कार्य समाप्त हो चुका है ।

(ख) और (ग) जी हां । मंजूरी 2-9-93 को दी गई थी । निर्माण कार्य मार्च, 1994 तक आरम्भ हो जाने की संभावना है ।

IMPROVEMENT OF RURAL TELECOM SECTOR IN ANDHRA PRADESH

2489. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to hand-over telephone exchanges to private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to improve the functioning of rural telecom exchanges; and

(d) whether any pilot projects are proposed in Andhra Pradesh to improve rural telephone sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.